

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Border Fortifications in Elkhovo Okoliya	DATE DISTR.	13 August 1953	
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PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Three lines of border fortifications, built between 1949 and 1952, are located in the area south of Lesovo (N 41-50, E 26-34). The fortifications were constructed by 12 Rifle Regiment and are now kept in repair by the same regiment. The end points of these lines is unknown, but the first row is parallel to and approximately three kilometers from the border south of Lesovo. The second line passes approximately 500 meters north of Lesovo, parallel to the first line. At Lesovo village, the distance between the two lines is approximately two kilometers. This distance varies all along the lines, however, since they have been constructed to connect points slightly below the crests of hills to permit an open view for firing. The location of the third line is unknown. There is an entanglement of barbed wire irregularly and diagonally strung between four rows of posts approximately three meters apart and 1½ meters high and situated approximately 400 meters west of Lesovo.

(Appendix I, Sections VII 7 and VIII 7, shows the fortifications described above. A drawing showing the approximate location of the first fortification line is included as Appendix E. Appendix F is taken from a drawing made and shows the fortifications in the immediate vicinity of Lesovo. Appendix F corresponds to the encircled section shown in Appendix E).

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	ARMY	EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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-2-

2. The trenches are in a zigzag line. Each elbow is approximately 20 meters long, approximately 110 centimeters deep, 100 centimeters wide at the top, and 60 centimeters wide at the bottom. Semicircular single-man firing emplacements, some of brick, are situated approximately eight meters apart along the line. Brick or stone heavy machine gun posts are situated about 250 meters apart in front of the trenches. The distance of these posts vary from 20 meters on steep terrain to one meter on flat land. The posts are located on the highest possible points.

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(A [] drawing [] showing the heavy machine gun posts is included as Appendix D).

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3. Behind the line are bunkers camouflaged with the branches of trees and bushes and surrounded by tightly coiled barbed wire. The location of five of these bunkers are shown on Appendix F. The three bunkers east of Lesovo are occupied by "Skala" units.
4. There is an emplacement for antitank guns south of Lesovo and two emplacements north of Lesovo, as shown on Appendix F. These emplacements, five or six meters in diameter, are circular in shape with an underground shelter for men and guns at the side as well as an ammunition storage area. The floor of the shelter is approximately 10 meters below the entrance to the emplacement.
- (A drawing [] is included as Appendix A-1. It will be noted that these emplacements differ slightly from the drawing [] in Appendix A-2).
5. One emplacement, approximately two kilometers north of Lesovo on a high point about 100 meters west of the Lesovo-Elkhovo highway, is guarded by a "Skala" unit, as indicated on Appendix F. Approximately 10 meters behind the bunker is a brick shelter camouflaged with foliage so that only the entrance door and a window, 80 x 80 centimeters in size, both facing southwest, could be observed.
6. An unoccupied mortar fortification, built by 2 Heavy Machine Gun Company of 12 Rifle Regiment, is located approximately 150 meters southwest of Lesovo. The fortification is a zigzag trench 50-60 meters long, 1.1 meter wide, and 1.5 meters deep connecting three mortar emplacements, two to three meters in diameter and approximately 1.1 meter deep. The walls of the entire fortification, about 25 centimeters thick, are made of brick, and thick planks cover all but the connecting trenches. There is an ammunition dump approximately 1 meter square beside each emplacement and a shelter for five or six men at either end of the fortification.

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(The location of this fortification is shown on Appendices E and F. A drawing [] showing the mortar fortification is shown on Appendices B and C).

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7. An observation post, constructed by 2 Heavy Machine Gun Company of 12 Rifle Regiment in November 1952, is located on the south slope of a small hill approximately 500 meters west of Lesovo.

(A drawing showing the location is included as Appendix F).

8. A zigzag fortification line is located approximately five kilometers northwest of Vulcho Polyana (N 42-00, E 26-41) and on a hill approximately the same distance south of Razdel (N 42-14, E 26-38). The fortification line, constructed prior to the spring of 1953, is two to three kilometers long, 80 centimeters wide, and 1.1 meter deep. Semi-circular single-man firing emplacements are located every eight meters along the line and heavy machine gun posts are situated every 250 meters along the line.

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-3-

9. An unoccupied bunker camouflaged by tree branches and surrounded by barbed wire is located between the fortification and the Elkhovo-Strandzha highway. The bunker is about 300 meters from the road, on an unoccupied mortar post of the type shown on Appendices B and C, and is approximately 100 meters east of the line.

(A [] drawing [] showing these bunkers is included as Appendix G. The location of the mortar post is indicated on Appendices E and F).

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10. Other mortar posts in this area, of the type shown on Appendices B and C, are located as follows:

- a. Appendix H indicates a mortar post approximately two kilometers north of Malko-Kirilovo (N 42-02, E 26-37) which was built by 12 Rifle Regiment in November 1952;
- b. Appendix H locates another mortar post on the southwest slope of the hill south of Razdel; and
- c. A mortar post 500 to 600 meters northeast of the summit of the hill south of Razdel.

11. The following antitank gun emplacements are located as follows:

- a. One antitank gun emplacement is approximately 1.5 kilometers south of Malko Kirilovo;
- b. One, constructed prior to October 1952, is approximately 3.5 kilometers southwest of Malko Kirilovo; and
- c. One, built by 12 Rifle Regiment in October 1952, is just west of Lalkovo (N 42-05, E 26-43).

These emplacements consist of a circular gun post, five or six meters in diameter, through which the emplacement is entered with underground shelters on either side. One shelter is 12 meters long, 2.5 meters wide and two meters deep. Another shelter, entered by descending two or three steps, is five or six meters long, 2.5 meters wide and approximately 1.5 meters high.

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[] estimate that these shelters, constructed of brick, could accommodate 12 to 15 people.

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(A [] drawing [] showing these emplacements is included as Appendix A-2).

12. One tank trap was observed across a valley approximately two kilometers west of Malko Kirilovo village. The tank trap was approximately one kilometer long, four to five meters wide, three meters deep, and extended northeast to southwest.

13. There are large numbers of bunkers on high points near every village on the slopes of hills. Some are concrete and were constructed by the Germans. while others are new and built of brick.

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[] No field gun emplacements were observed in the border area.

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-4-

Legend for Appendices

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Appendix A - Antitank Gun Emplacements

- 1 - Top view only of emplacements
 - Y - Ammunition storage area, about two meters high.
 - Z - Shelter for men and guns.

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- 2 - Top and side views of emplacements

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Appendices B and C - Typical Mortar Fortification

- 1 - Covered shelters two meters deep.
- 2 - Ammunition storage areas.
- 3 - Wooden plank covering 25-30 centimeters deep.
- 4 - Drainage ditches.

Appendix D - Typical Heavy Machine Gun Post

- 1 - Main fortification line
- 2 - Machine gun posts
- 3 - Earth fill

Appendix E - Fortifications in the Lesovo Area

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- 1 - Mortar fortification
- 2 - Observation post
- 3 - Bunker (old)
- 4 - Area shown in Appendix F

Appendix F - Fortifications in the Lesovo Area

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- 1 - Mortar fortification
- 2 - Belite Kamami area
- 3 - Dairy farm of Lesovo agricultural cooperative
- 4 - Unoccupied antitank gun emplacements
- 5 - Single row barbed wire 1.5 meters high
- 6 - Unoccupied bunkers
- 7 - Occupied antitank gun emplacement
- 8 - Occupied bunkers
- 9 - Fortification line
- 10 - Public water supply fountain
- 11 - Ammunition dump

Appendix G - Fortifications in Razdel Area

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- 1 - Mortar fortification
- 2 - Bunker
- 3 - Fortification line
- 4 - Encampment of 12 Rifle Regiment

Appendix H - Fortification in Razdel Area

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- 1 - Mortar fortification (repaired in 1953)
- 2 - Mortar fortification (constructed in November 1952)
- 3 - Encampment of 12 Rifle Regiment
- 4 - Fortification lines

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-5-

Appendix I - Overlay Map of Area between Elkhovo and Turkish Border

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- 1 - Elkhovo
- 2 - Malomirovo
- 3 - Granitovo
- 4 - Razdel
- 5 - Melnitza
- 6 - Malko Kirilovo
- 7 - Vulcha Polyana

- A - Road to Yambol
- B - Road to Topolovgrad
- C - Tundzha River

==== Roads
==== Streams

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Appendix A

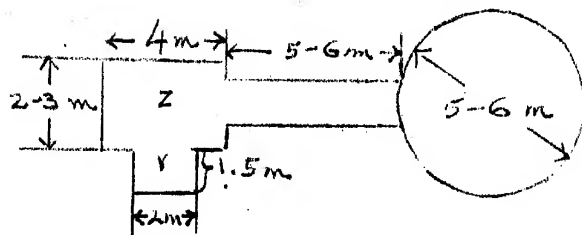
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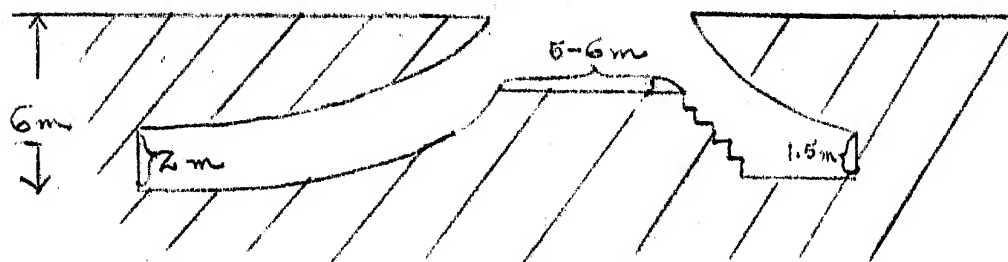
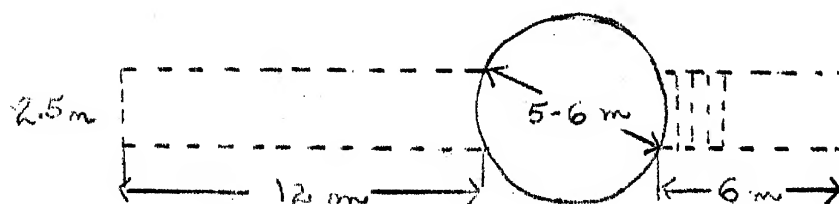
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Antitank Gun Emplacements

I.



II.



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Appendix B

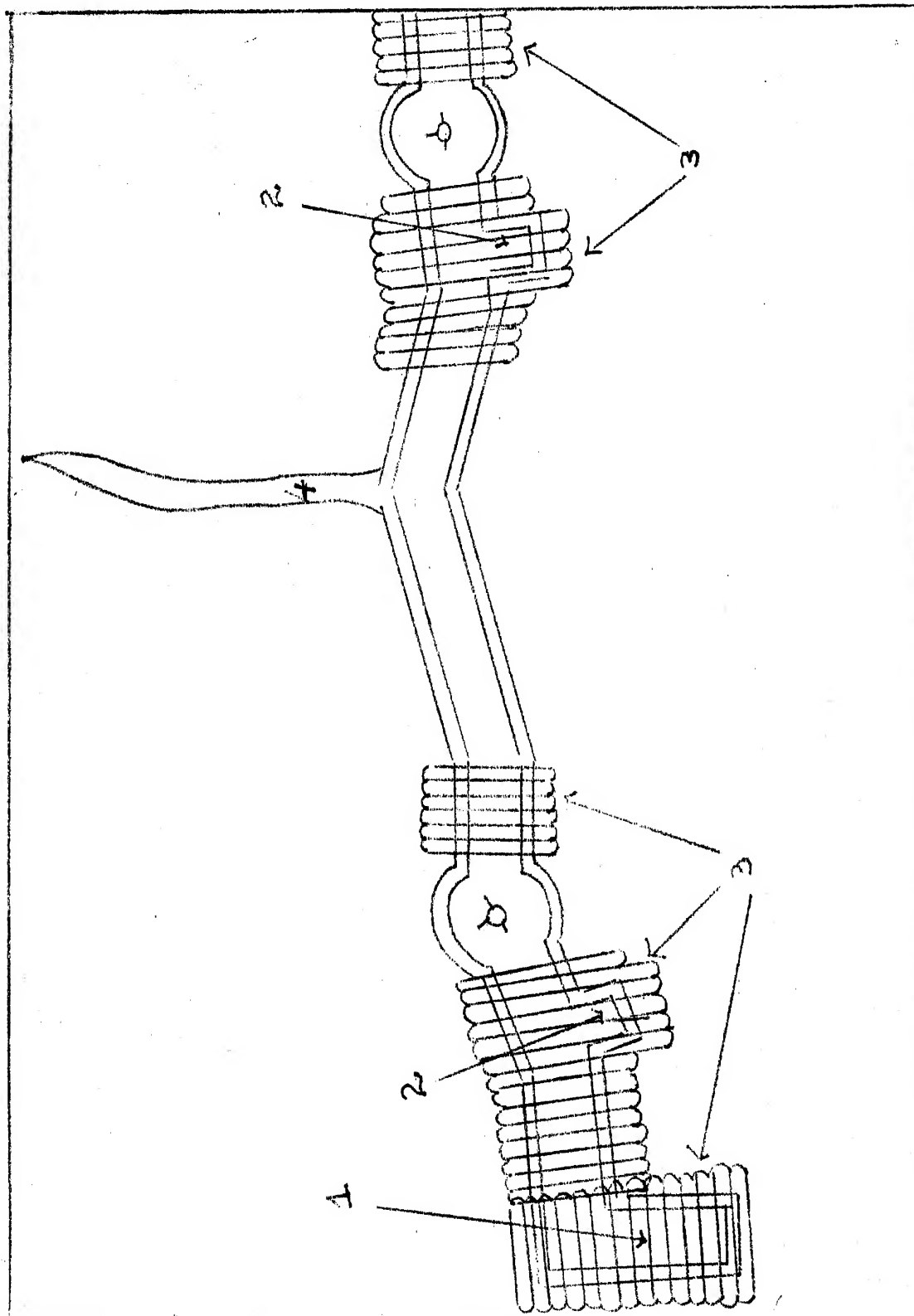
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Typical Mortar Fortification

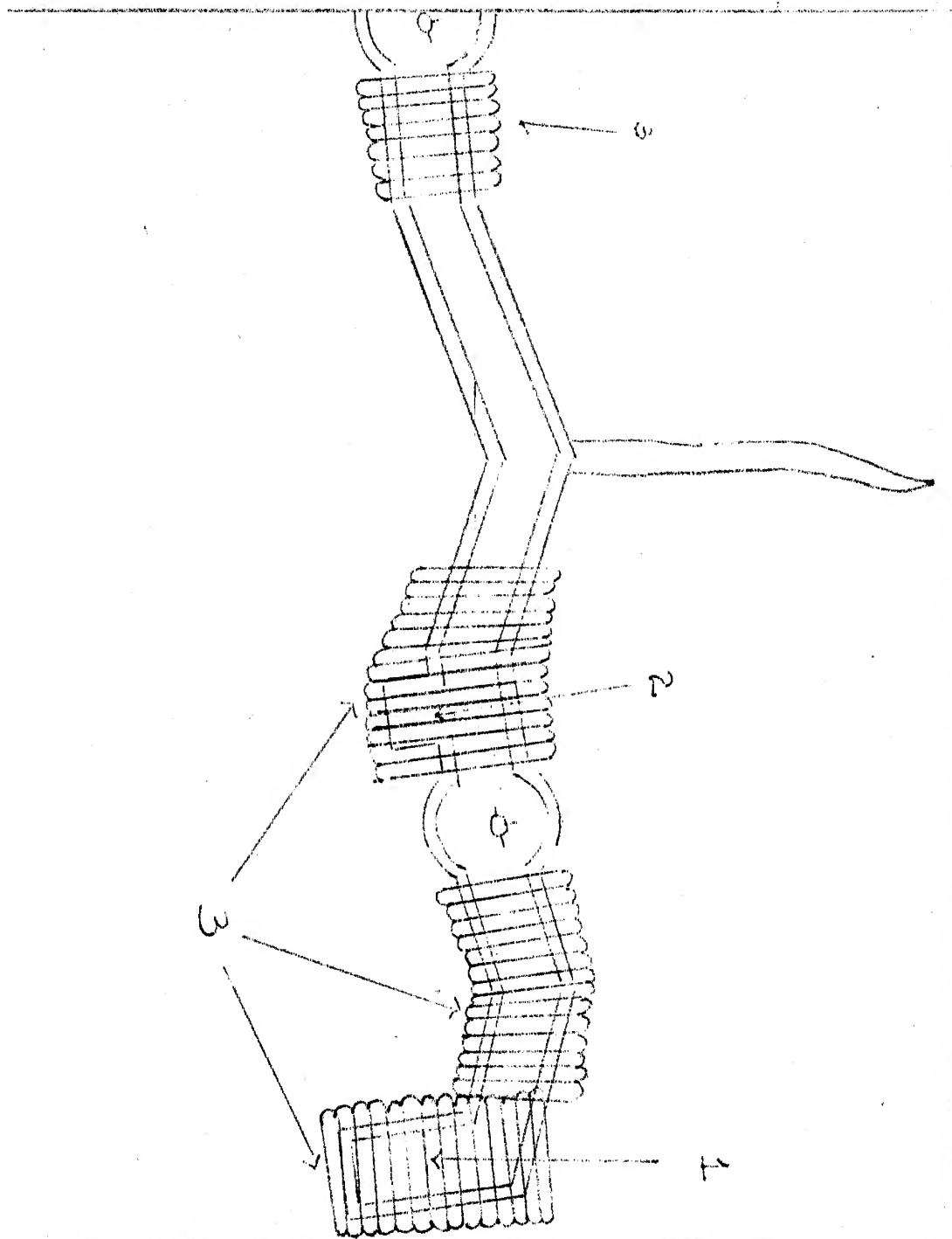


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Typical Mortar Fortification



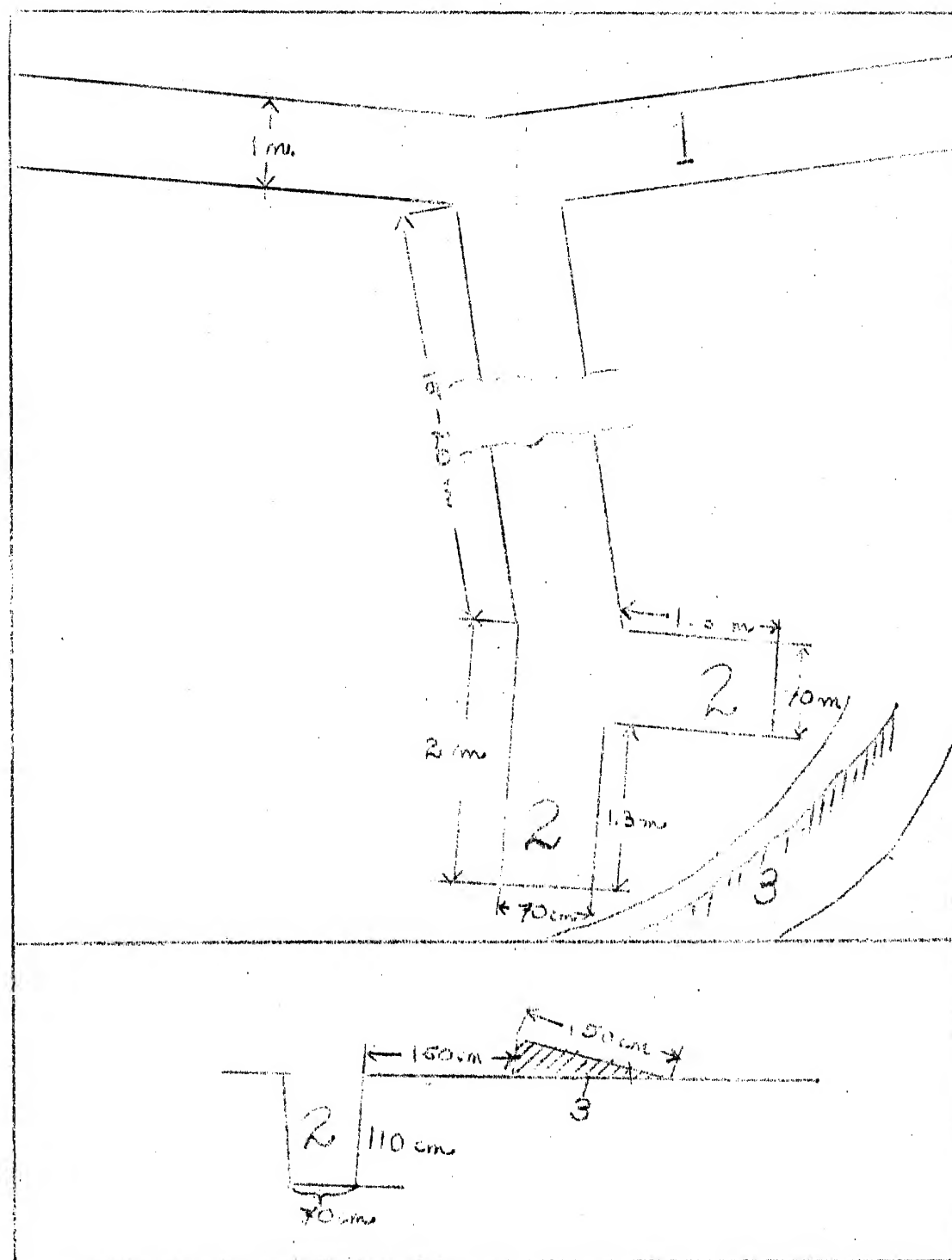
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Appendix D

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-9-

Typical Heavy Machine Gun Post

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Appendix E

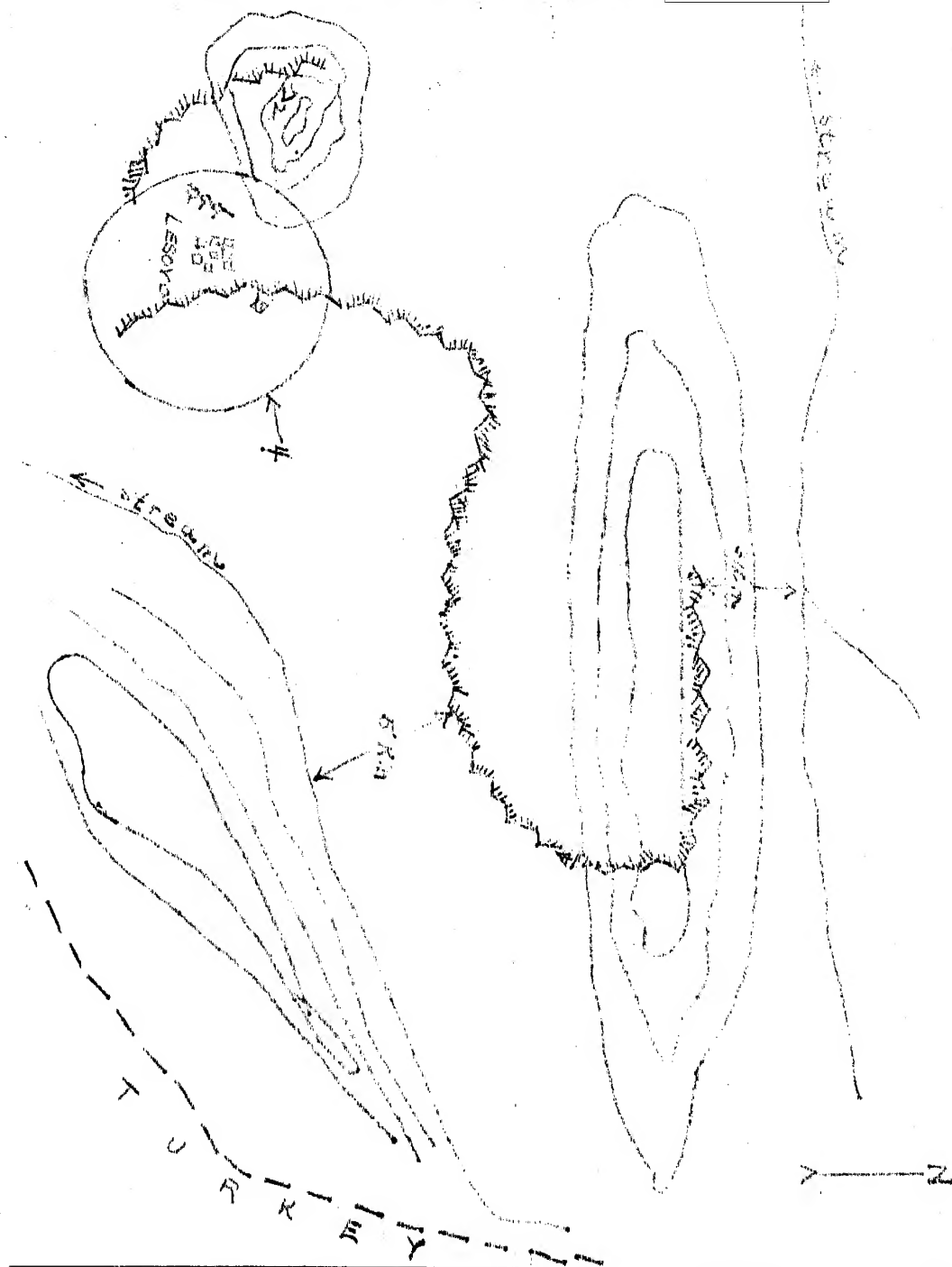
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-10-

Fortifications in the Legovo Area

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Appendix F

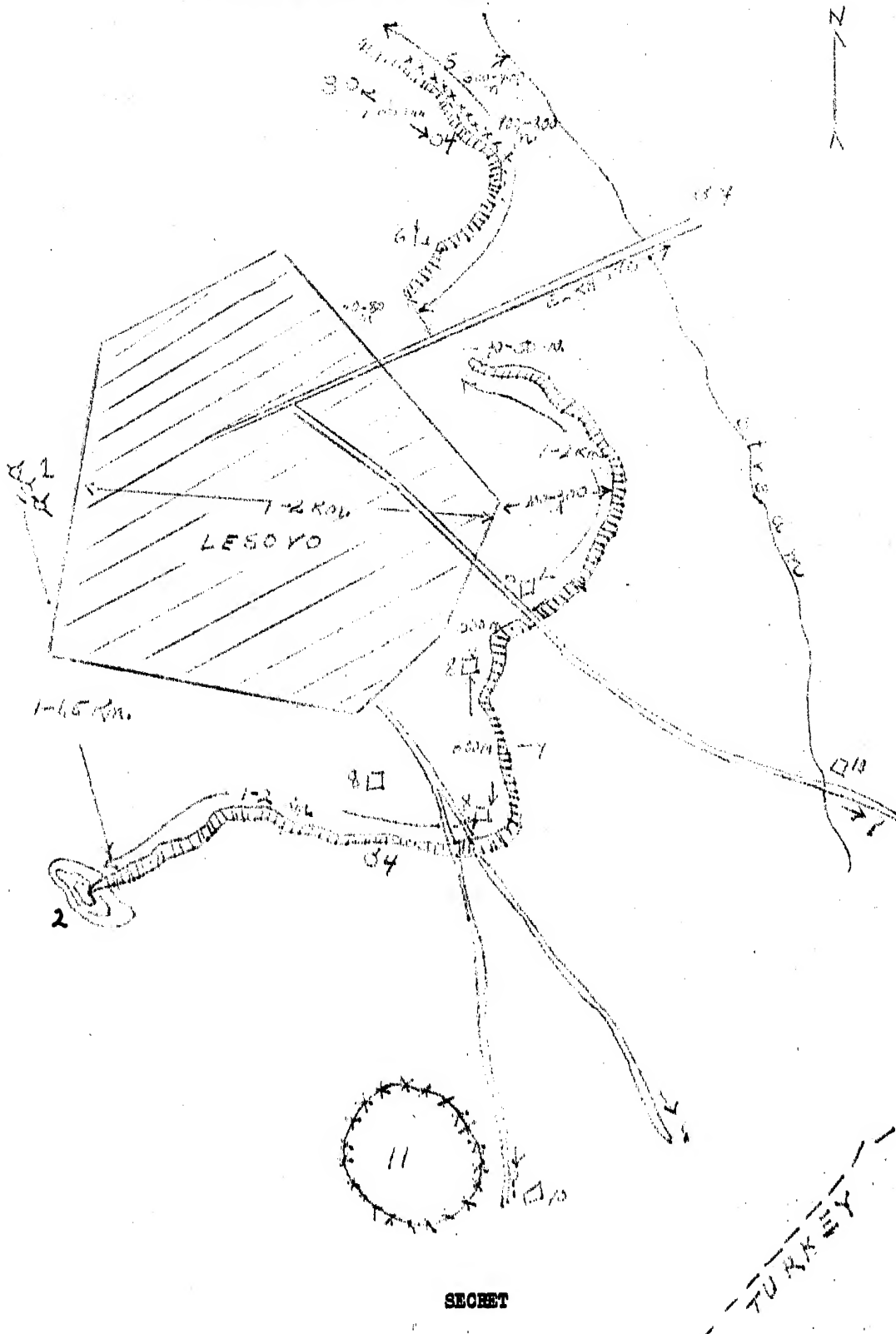
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-11-

Fortifications in the Lesovo Are

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Appendix G

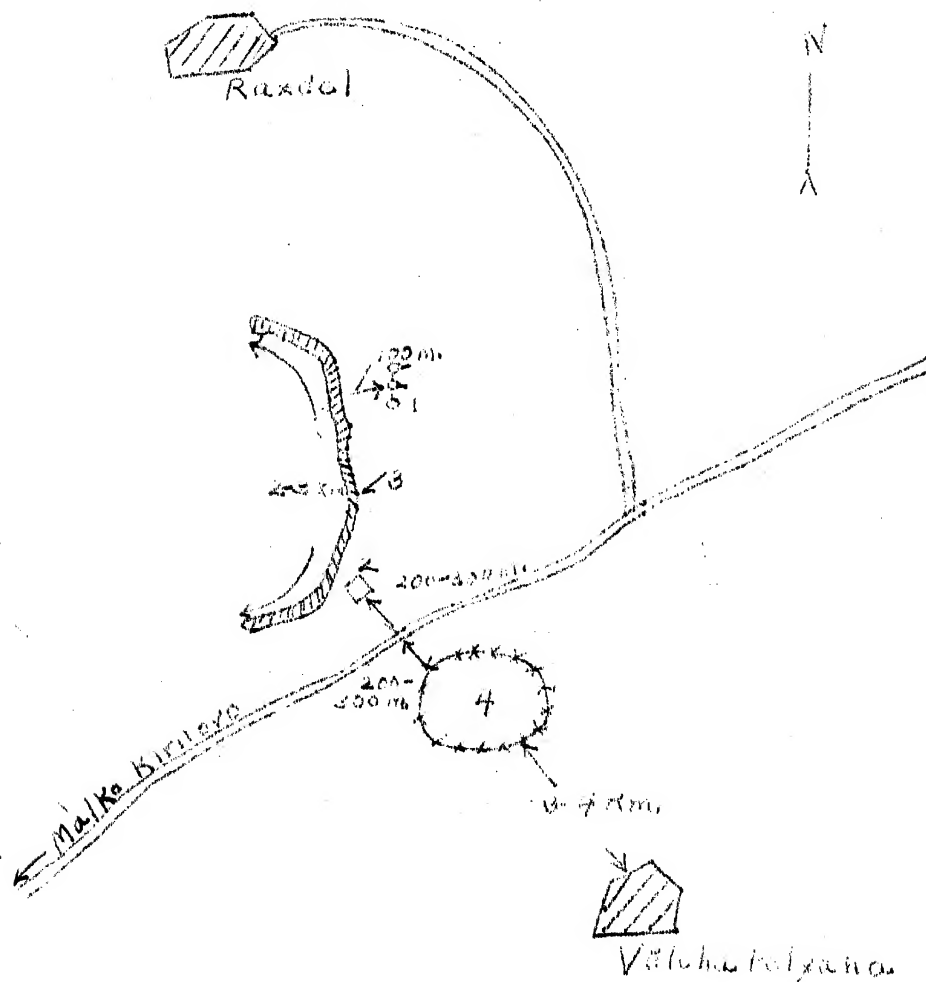
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Fortifications in Razdel Area

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Appendix H

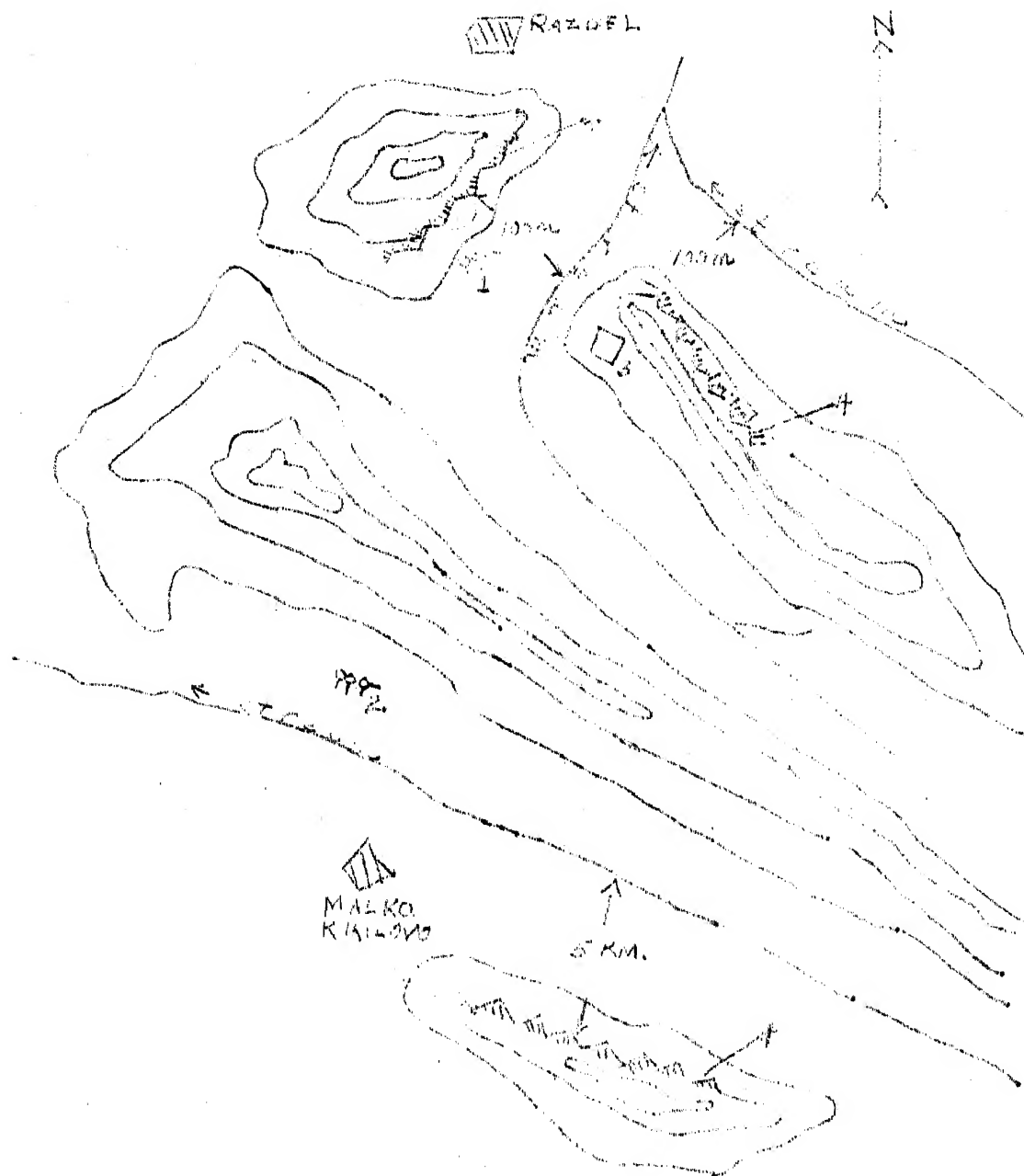
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Fortifications in Razdel Area

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Appendix I

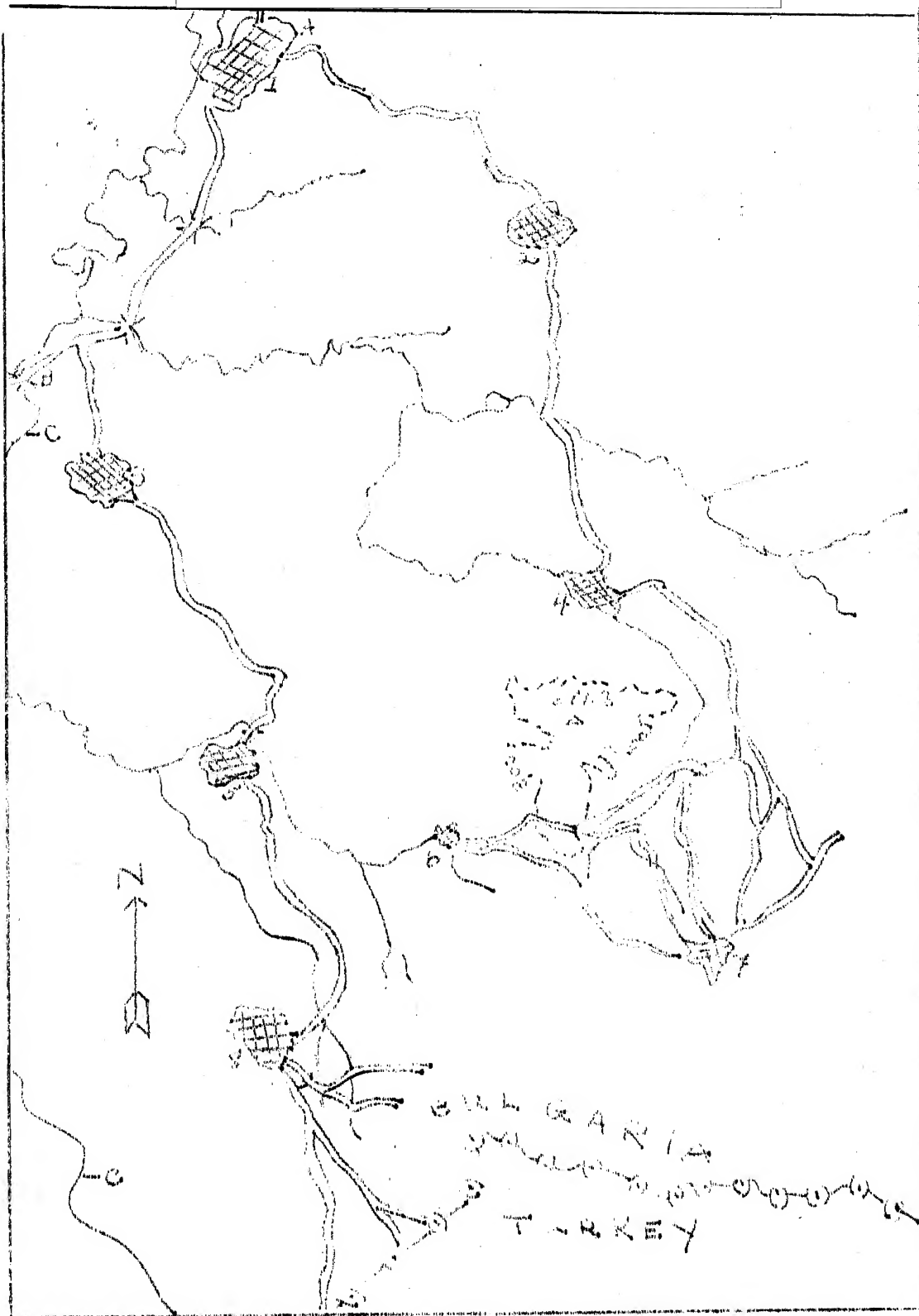
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Overlay Map of Area Between Elkhovo and Turkish Border

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0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KM
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